



Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter

October 2014

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Central Illinois Orchid Society Newsletter is published irregularly. Subscription is through membership in the Society.

Membership is \$15/person and \$25/couple. Please visit our home page for Membership form and mailing address.

CIOS Officers for 2014

Linda Bial, President
Ray Urban, Vice Pres.
Nancy Urban, Treasurer
Bettina Francis, Secretary

Mitzi Williams, Newsletter and Webpage content

President's message:

Now that autumn is here, you are probably looking forward to having orchids to bloom inside your house. As you know, each orchid species has a natural blooming season. Although most bloom once a year during that season or two overlapping seasons, some bloom multiple times, giving us a lovely display constantly. By planning your purchases carefully, you are likely to have orchids in bloom throughout the year.

Since orchids grow all over the world, each species has a blooming season based on that original habitat. Specifically, their blooms are timed to coincide with the availability of their pollinators. In the home, the growing environment may not quite match the natural habitat, plus hybridization affects the bloom cycle as well. Modern hybrids can be found in grocery stores and elsewhere year round. Also, orchids can be "tricked" into blooming out of season. For example, some growers chill the growing area of Phalaenopsis to make them think it's fall and time to bloom.

A good source of information on orchid blooming time is the book *Four Seasons of Orchids*, by Greg Allikas and Ned Nash. Here are some brief suggestions of orchids to choose if you'd like to have year-round blooming occur:

Fall-Winter bloomers include Brassavolas, Cymbidiums, Dendrobiums, and Oncidiums while Ludisia (jewel orchids) and Odontoglossums are Winter bloomers. Winter-Spring bloomers include Paphiopedilums and Encyclias. Spring bloomers include Laelias, Lycastes, and Masdevallias, followed by Spring-Summer bloomers like Doritaenopsis, and with the advent of Summer, Catasetums and Miltonias come into bloom.

Orchids with a much wider range of blooming season include Phalaenopsis, Epidendrums, and Phragmepediums, blooming from fall to spring; Vandas, from spring through Fall, and Cattleyas being most variable blooming twice a year, usually in the Spring and the Fall.

Lastly, please give your warm welcome and support to the new officers for 2015 mentioned on the next page.

Linda Bial, CIOS President

Next meeting:

- Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the residence of Bettina and George Francis, 801 S. Anderson, Urbana. Typically, this is a sale event of plants donated by our members and others. This year, however, plants purchased from a grower in Hawaii will be added to the sale! These plants will all be in bud or blooming!! Also, the sale will be **open to non-members, so be sure to get there on time for the best selection and also tell your friends and family.** If you have questions about your plants, do bring them for consultation and advice from other members.
 - Plan now to attend our Holiday dinner meeting on **Sunday, November 16 at 5 p.m.** at one of the restaurants in Champaign-Urbana area. Please note there is **no meeting on Nov. 10 (our regular meeting day)** nor any December meeting. There will be a gift orchid for every member in attendance at the Holiday dinner meeting, and guests are welcome. More details will be forthcoming.
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Events in the area:

- Oct. 11-12, 2014. Illinois Orchid Society Fall Mini Show, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL. IOS as well as various vendors will have plants for sale. Admission is free, but the parking is fee-based, which is waived with the AOS membership card. <http://illinoisorchidsociety.nationbuilder.com/>
 - Oct. 17 (Fri.) 2014. Prairie State Orchid Society (Springfield area) Shoe Horn sale. A great variety of orchids are sold by the members. Rochester, IL. 7pm-- <http://www.prairiestateorchids.org>. If interested, contact Mitzi.
 - Oct. 18 - 19, 2014. Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society Show, Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, see: <http://cincinnatiorchids.org/index.html>.
 - Oct. 18-19, 2014. Eastern Iowa Orchid Society Show and Sale, Noelridge Greenhouse, 4900 Council Street N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA. <http://easterniowaorchidsociety.org/>
 - Oct. 25-26, 2014. Michiana Orchid Society, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame (South Bend), IN. For more info, visit www.michianaorchidsociety.org/
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2015 Officers:

- At the September 2014 meeting, the CIOS Board proposed a bylaws change (Article IV Section I) to combine the offices of the Vice President and the Secretary. The proposal was approved. Subsequently, the following members were nominated and unanimously approved by those present at the meeting: Joanne Miller, President. Mark Williams, Treasurer. Bettina Francis has graciously agreed to continue as Secretary, and will also fulfill the duties of Vice-President, as needed.
- **We are in search for** a new meeting room, and possibly a show room because the Champaign Public Library will begin charging fees for the use of their rooms. The large room where our monthly

meetings as well as our show are held now costs \$25/hour beginning 2015. It is possible to move the monthly meetings to one of the smaller rooms on the second floor (\$10/hour), the cost will be prohibitive to hold our show in Room C as before. Because the library policy does not allow any sales, we cannot recoup the show expenditures as most other societies can. If you know of a venue with a reasonable fee, and allows sales of plants, please let Linda or Joanne know as soon as possible.

Notes and tips:

- Someone asked at the last meeting the meaning of the code that follows the name of the plant on a label. They are designation for a type of award given by the American Orchid Society at one of the AOS judged shows. Below is an excerpt from the American Orchid Society website (www.aos.org) for the most commonly seen designations. Both hobby and commercial growers can receive these awards. For additional awards, see www.aos.org.

AOS Awards

The American Orchid Society grants the following awards to orchids and exhibitors. AOS awards are a recognized measure of quality the world over and coveted by hobbyists and commercial growers alike. An AOS flower quality award adds value to an orchid in its own right, and as a parent for creating hybrids. So how can you use these designations when purchasing a plant? It means that any plant with a FCC/AOS, AM/AOS, and HCC/AOS designations have the potential to give you spectacular blooms.

FCC (First Class Certificate)

The highest flower-quality award, awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 90 points or more on a 100-point scale.

AM (Award of Merit)

Awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 80 to 89 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

HCC (Highly Commended Certificate)

Awarded to orchid species or hybrids scoring 75 to 79 points inclusive on a 100-point scale.

JC (Judges' Commendation)

Given for distinctive characteristics that the judges unanimously feel should be recognized but cannot be scored in the customary ways.

AD (Award of Distinction)

Awarded once to a cross representing a worthy new direction in Breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned.

AQ (Award of Quality)

Awarded once to a cross exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 plants or inflorescences of different clones of a hybrid or cultivated species. At least one of the inflorescences must receive a flower quality award and the overall quality of the group must be an improvement over the former type.

The above awards are for the flowers only. There are an additional handful of awards given for the quality of the plants. Also, many local society shows give awards. Unless specifically indicated as an AOS Judged show, the awards are unofficial.

- Bringing plants indoors: now that the night temperatures are reaching 50° F or lower, all of your tropical orchids should be indoors. The outdoor light level, even on cloudy days, is much higher than the level indoors, so gradual introduction to the different environment is essential. The plants should be moved to a completely shaded area for a few days, then bring them indoors. Watering should be less frequent, but since the plants are still actively growing, watering twice a week may be necessary. The fertilizer should be less frequent through the fall and winter months. It can be withheld totally during January and February.

The exception to this process is *Cymbidium*. They require cold period for the flowers to initiate, so they must stay outdoors until the night temperature is consistently at lower 40° F. If they are in a partial shade, bring them GRADUALLY to a sunnier location, and given flower booster fertilizer (the one with high phosphorus or the middle number of the NPK ratio) once a week. If there is a sudden drop in the night temperature, but the days are still warm, they can be covered rather than brought inside.

Orchid of the month: world of miniatures



The plants shown here belong to Don McClure, our go-to person for miniatures and compact orchids.

Above: The one with dark pink flowers is a *Tolumnia* hybrid. They are found in the Caribbean and the tropic Americas. The AOS culture information says that the key to successfully growing *Tolumnia* is dryness followed by watering which drains quickly, thus the reason for growing them in small clay pots or pieces of cork bark.

At right: The enlargement of the other plant is shown above. This is *Dendrobium lichenastrum* var. *prenticei*. With its thick, succulent-type leaves, one might think this species grows in arid environment, but it actually lives in a wet, medium-altitude ground in Australia. The small creeping rhizomes form a dense mat over the ground. The comparative size of these plants are shown by a quarter placed next to them.

The October 2014 *Orchids* magazine has an article about *Den. lichenastrum* (By Peter D. Adams, p. 587-589).